SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
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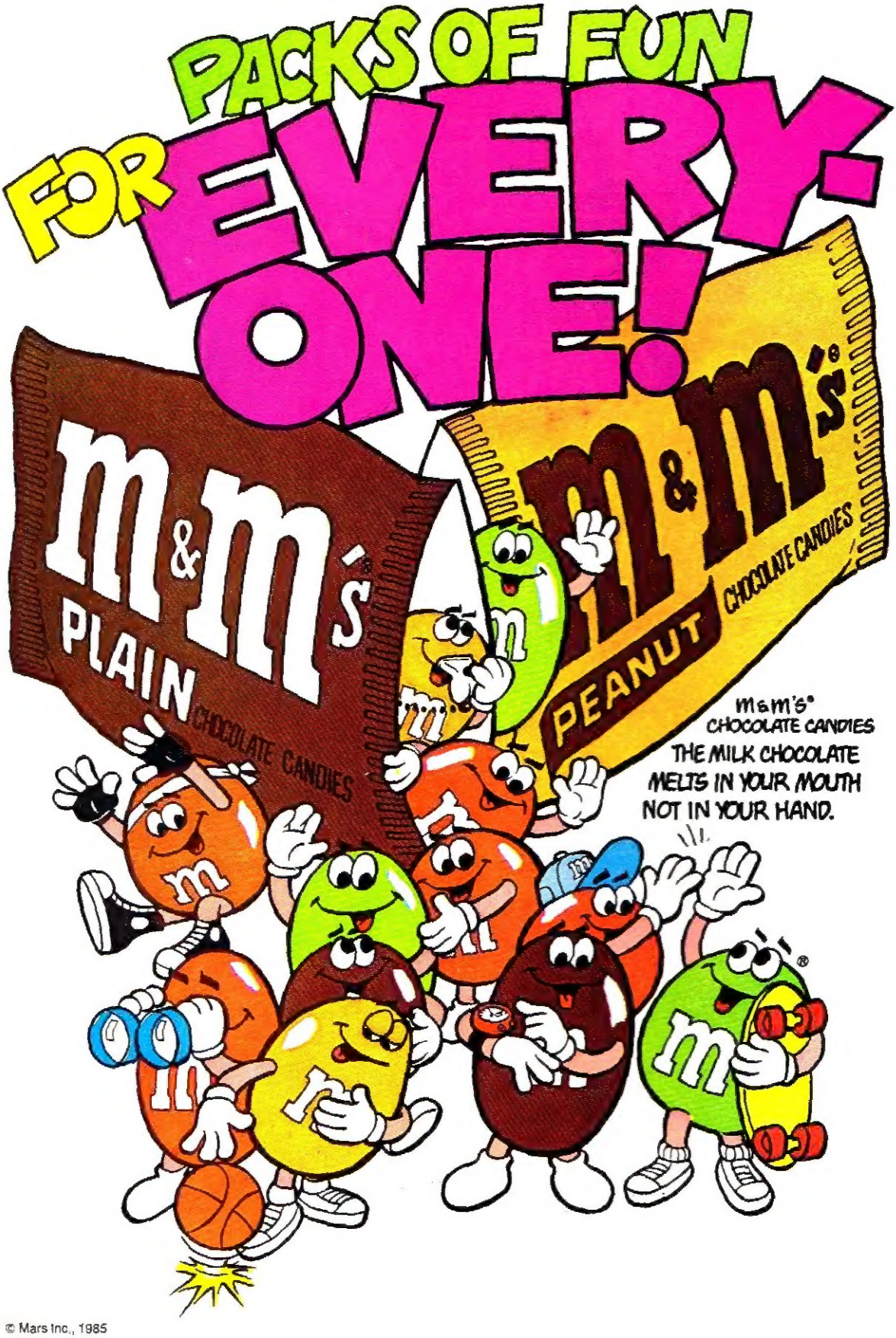
APR. 86
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BULLY!
GET LOST, YA BUM!
BEAT IT!
BOOOO!
Don't miss THE LEGEND OF WONDER WOMAN!



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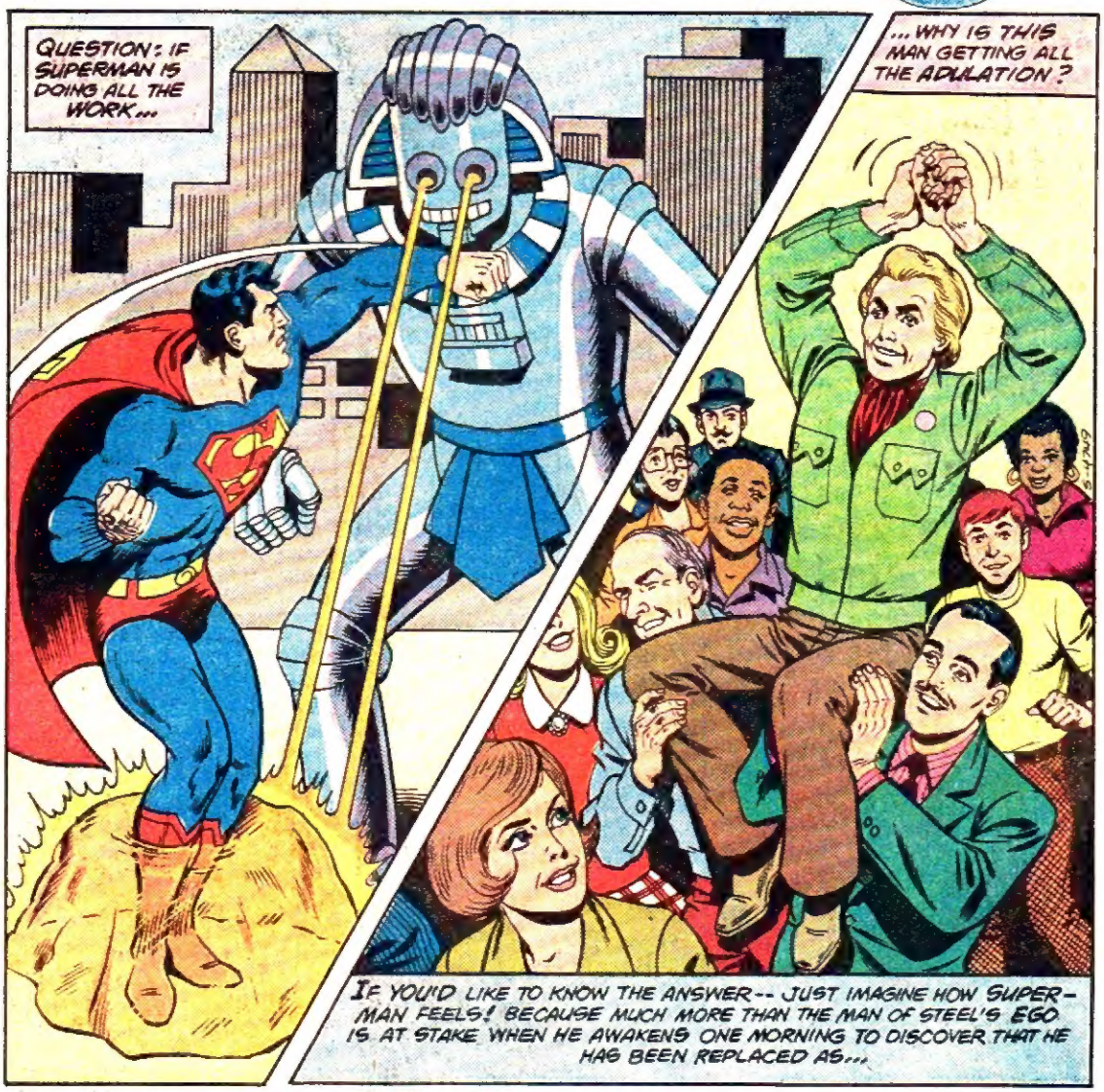
ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET *KRYPTON*, *KAL-EL* GREW TO MANHOOD ON *EARTH*--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC *SUPER-POWERS*! IN THE CITY OF *METROPOLIS*, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN *CLARK KENT*--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER *EARTH*--AND *BEYOND*--AS...

SUPERMAN

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER


QUESTION: IF SUPERMAN IS DOING ALL THE WORK...
...WHY IS THIS MAN GETTING ALL THE ADULATION?
IF YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW THE ANSWER-- JUST IMAGINE HOW SUPERMAN FEELS! BECAUSE MUCH MORE THAN THE MAN OF STEEL'S EGO IS AT STAKE WHEN HE AWAKENS ONE MORNING TO DISCOVER THAT HE HAS BEEN REPLACED AS...

"The MOST POPULAR MAN in METROPOLIS!"

WRITER: CRAIG BOLDMAN
LETTERER: MILT SNAPINN
COLORIST: GENE D'ANGELO
ARTIST: KURT SCHAFFENBERGER
EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

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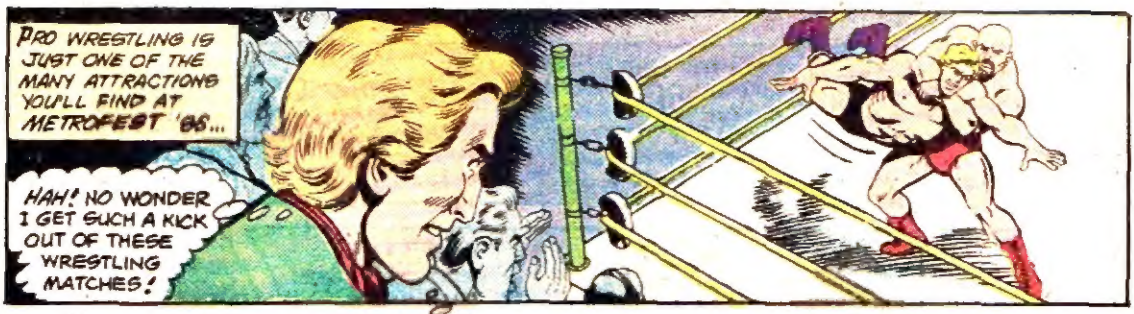
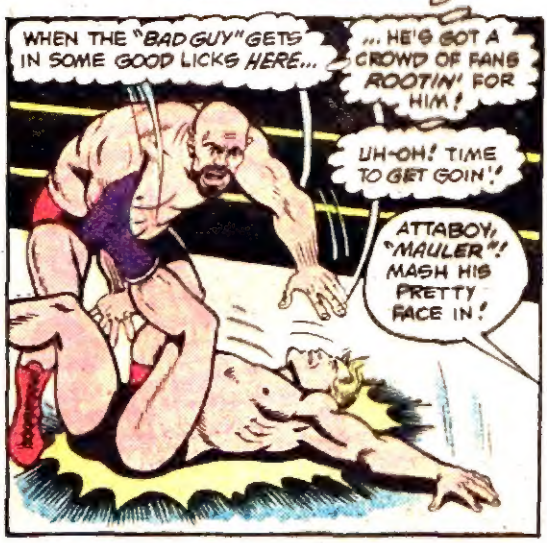
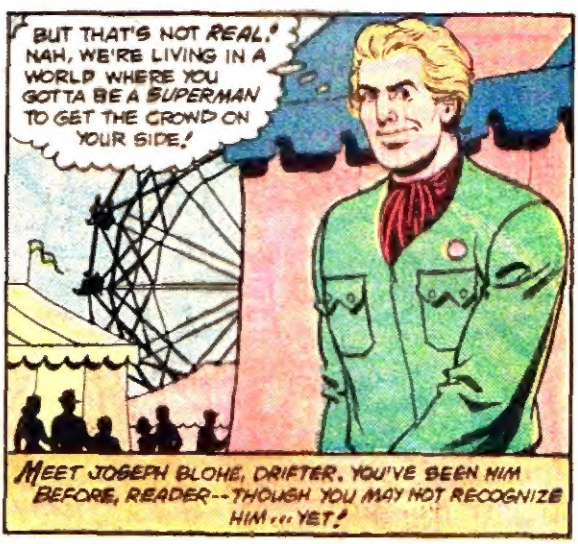
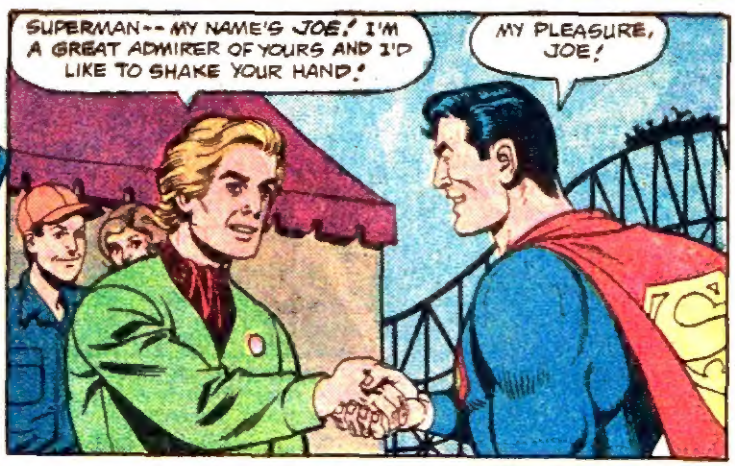

PRO WRESTLING IS JUST ONE OF THE MANY ATTRACTIONS YOU'LL FIND AT METROFEST '86...
HAH! NO WONDER I GET SUCH A KICK OUT OF THESE WRESTLING MATCHES!


WHEN THE "BAD GUY" GETS IN SOME GOOD LICKS HERE...
... HE'S GOT A CROWD OF FANS ROOTIN' FOR HIM!
UH-OH! TIME TO GET GOIN'!
ATTABOY, "MAULER"! MASH HIS PRETTY FACE IN!

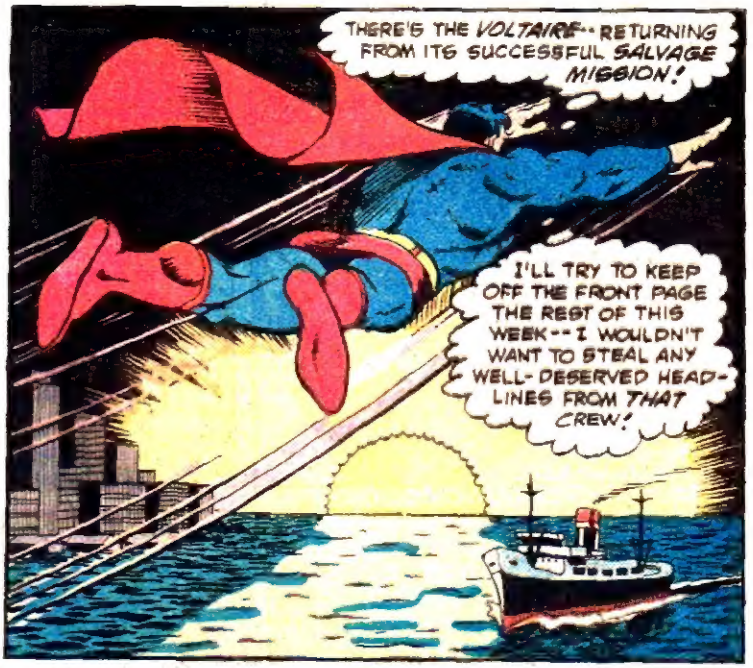

BUT THAT'S NOT REAL! NAH, WE'RE LIVING IN A WORLD WHERE YOU GOTTA BE A SUPERMAN TO GET THE CROWD ON YOUR SIDE!
MEET JOSEPH BLOHE, DRIFTER. YOU'VE BEEN HIM BEFORE, READER--THOUGH YOU MAY NOT RECOGNIZE HIM... YET!

'COURSE, WHO KNOWS? THAT ALL COULD CHANGE KIND OF SUDDENLY... I HOPE!
AH! HERE HE COMES--RIGHT ON SCHEDULE!

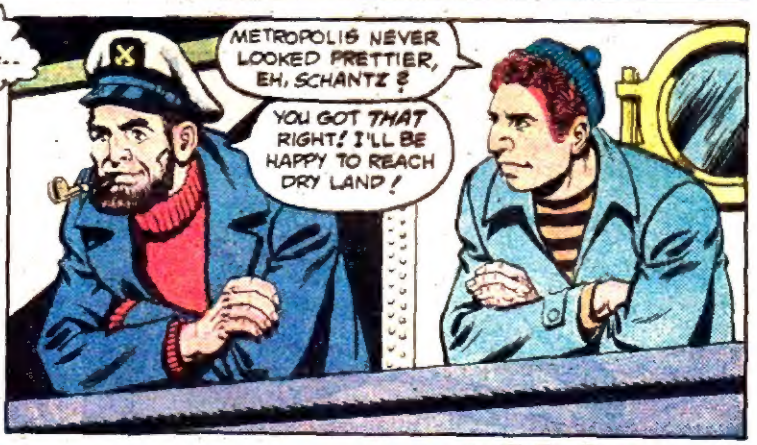

SUPERMAN--MY NAME'S JOE! I'M A GREAT ADMIRER OF YOURS AND I'D LIKE TO SHAKE YOUR HAND!
MY PLEASURE, JOE!

Meet SUPERMAN TODAY!
SUPPORT ALZHEIMER RESEARCH
HA! MY "FRIEND" SUPERMAN DOESN'T KNOW IT, BUT--
--HIS LIFE HAS JUST TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WORSE!

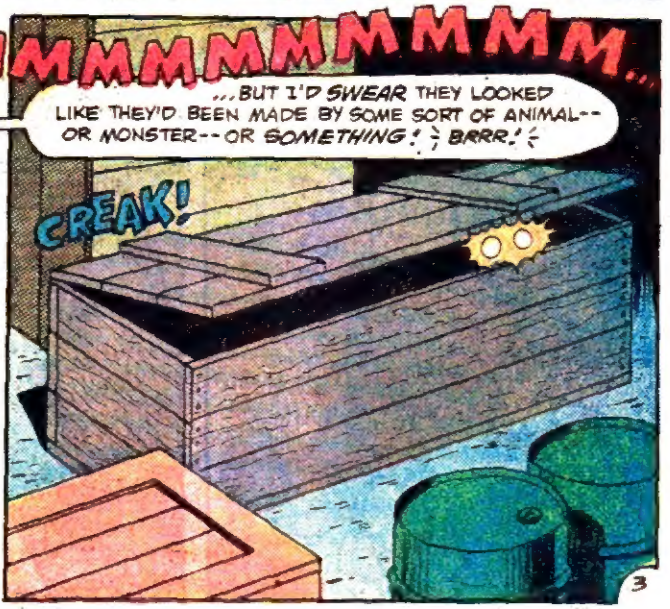
ALONG ABOUT SUNDOWN...
HUH? THE CROWD'S TURNED ANTI-SOCIAL ALL OF A SUDDEN! I'M NOT DOING THE CHARITY ANY GOOD! MIGHT AS WELL GO ON HOME!

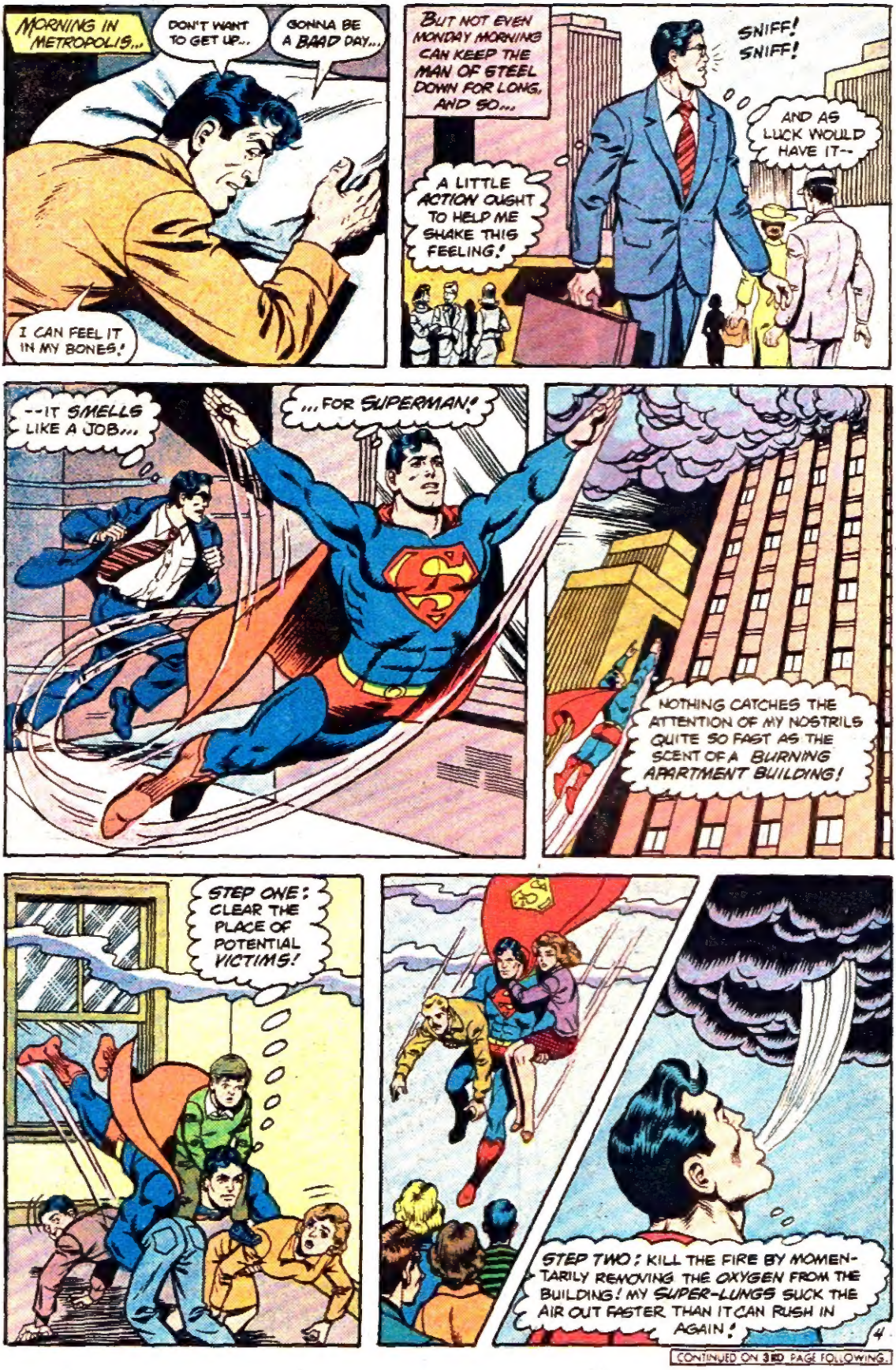

THERE'S THE VOLTAIRE--RETURNING FROM ITS SUCCESSFUL SALVAGE MISSION!
I'LL TRY TO KEEP OFF THE FRONT PAGE THE REST OF THIS WEEK--I WOULDN'T WANT TO STEAL ANY WELL-DESERVED HEADLINES FROM THAT CREW!

THEY'VE RECOVERED AN EGYPTIAN SARCOPHAGUS FROM THE WRECKAGE OF THE ILL-FATED ANNA MARIE--A SHIP THAT WENT DOWN IN THE ATLANTIC SIXTY YEARS AGO!


METROPOLIS NEVER LOOKED PRETTIER, EH, SCHANTZ?
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT! I'LL BE HAPPY TO REACH DRY LAND!

RRRRRRRR
YOU'D BE TOO, IF YOU SAW THE HULL OF THE ANNA MARIE, DOWN THERE ON THE OCEAN FLOOR! I DON'T KNOW WHAT MADE THOSE HUGE HOLES...


MMMMMMMMMM...
...BUT I'D SWEAR THEY LOOKED LIKE THEY'D BEEN MADE BY SOME SORT OF ANIMAL--OR MONSTER--OR SOMETHING! BRRR!
CREAK!


MORNING IN METROPOLIS...
DON'T WANT TO GET UP...
GONNA BE A BAAD DAY...
I CAN FEEL IT IN MY BONES!
BUT NOT EVEN MONDAY MORNING CAN KEEP THE MAN OF STEEL DOWN FOR LONG, AND SO...
A LITTLE ACTION OUGHT TO HELP ME SHAKE THIS FEELING!
SNIFF! SNIFF!
AND AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT--
--IT SMELLS LIKE A JOB...
...FOR SUPERMAN!
NOTHING CATCHES THE ATTENTION OF MY NOSTRILS QUITE SO FAST AS THE SCENT OF A BURNING APARTMENT BUILDING!
STEP ONE: CLEAR THE PLACE OF POTENTIAL VICTIMS!
STEP TWO: KILL THE FIRE BY MOMENTARILY REMOVING THE OXYGEN FROM THE BUILDING! MY SUPER-LUNGS SUCK THE AIR OUT FASTER THAN IT CAN RUSH IN AGAIN!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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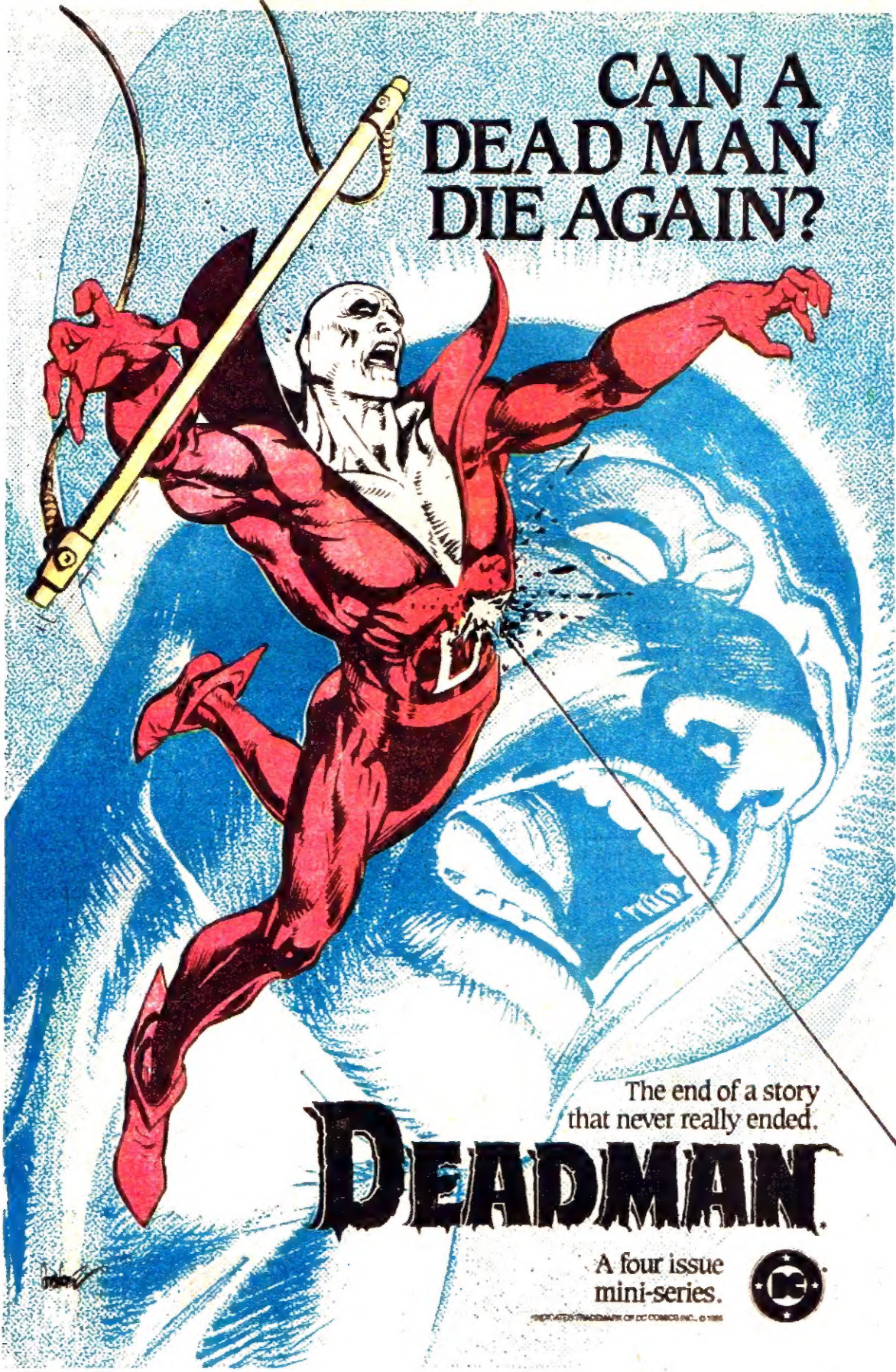
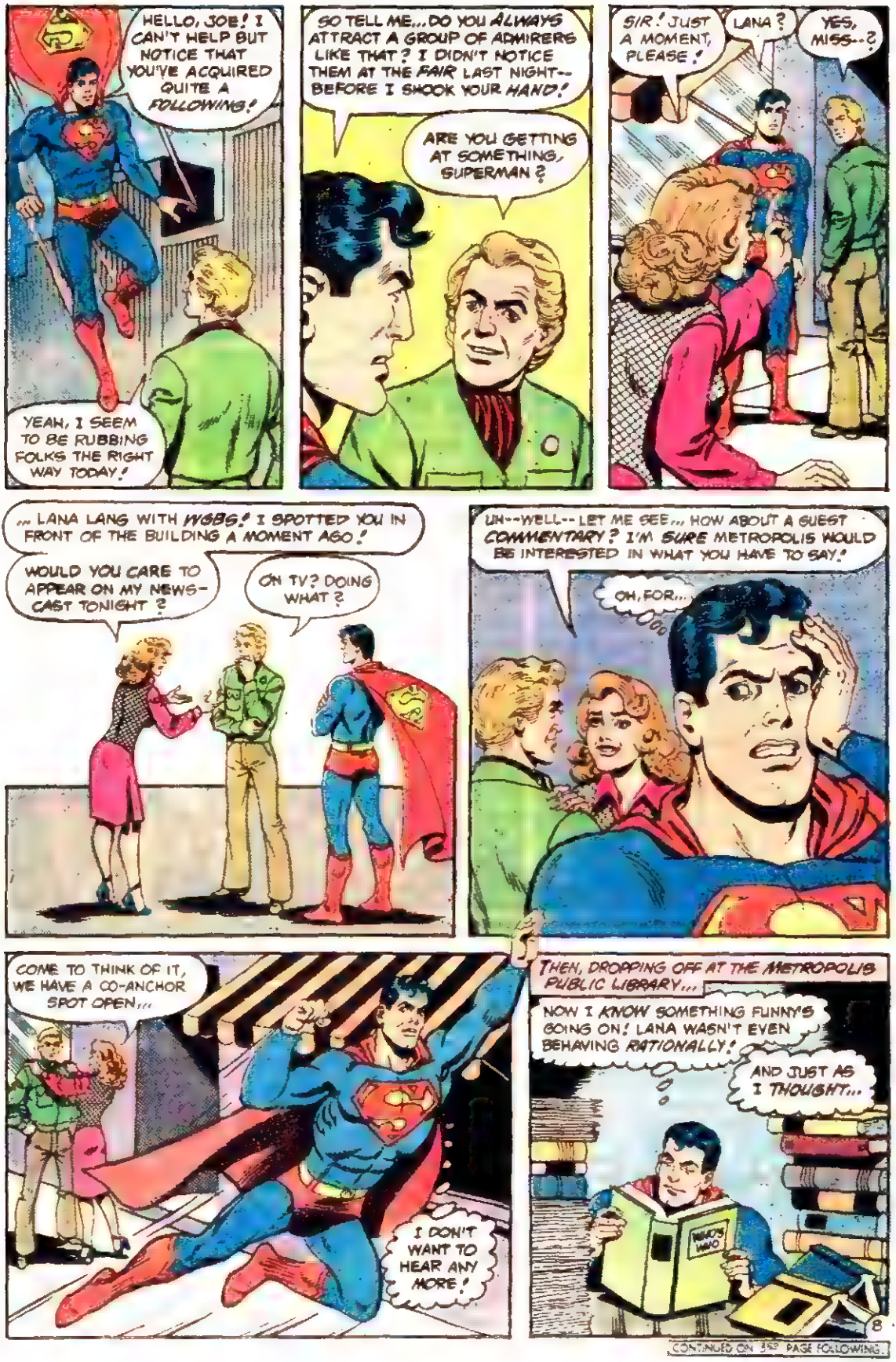

CAN A DEAD MAN DIE AGAIN?
The end of a story that never really ended.
DEADMAN
A four issue mini-series.

STEP THREE: INSPECT THE LAST VESTIGES OF FIRE AND REMOVE ANY TRACES OF SMOKE WITH MY SUPER-BREATH TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE!
HMM! THIS SPRINKLER SYSTEM IS IN DISGRACEFUL SHAPE! I'LL HAVE STRONG WORDS WITH SOMEBODY ABOUT THAT!
THE ELECTRICAL WIRING ISN'T ANY BETTER! I'M AMAZED THAT IT TOOK AN ACCIDENT THIS LONG TO HAPPEN!
BUT ALL IN ALL, AS NEAT A RESCUE AS I'VE EVER MADE!
ALL CLEAR, CHIEF!
SO? YOU WAITING FOR A MEDAL?
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU JUST TURNED THIS ESCAPADE INTO A FALSE ALARM FOR ME AND MY BOYS!
CHIEF
ALL RIGHT, MEN! MOVE IT OUT!
?
I DON'T BELIEVE I HEARD WHAT I JUST HEARD!
AND THE APARTMENT TENANTS ARE FILING PAST WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A "THANK YOU, SUPERMAN"!
DRY
EANER
HEY, SUPERMAN! SUPERMAN!
AH...AT LEAST ONE GUY WANTS TO SHOW SOME GRATITUDE!
YES...?
DON'T BLOCK THE DOOR, EH? I GOT A BUSINESS I'M TRYING TO CONDUCT HERE!
WELL, I'LL BE A KRYPTONIAN BABCOTCH!
I KNEW I SHOULD'VE STAYED IN BED!

JGB
BETTER GET TO WORK! I'VE GOT TO TAPE SOME PROMO SPOTS FOR TONIGHT'S NEWSCAST!
HMM! WONDER WHO'S DRAWING THAT CROWD BELOW?
OF ALL PEOPLE -- THE SAME GUY WHO WAS AT THE FAIRGROUNDS LAST NIGHT!
WHAT IS HE, SOME KIND OF CELEBRITY?
A QUICK TRANSFORMATION LATER...
'MORNING, JOSH! READY TO START THOSE PROMOS?
SKIP IT, CLARK! WE'RE NOT DOING THEM!
NOT BECAUSE I'M LATE I HOPE!
NO--BECAUSE WE CAME TO OUR SENSES! IT SUDDENLY OCCURRED TO US--
--WHY WOULD YOUR FACE MAKE ANYONE WANT TO TUNE IN TO OUR NEWSCAST?!
I MIGHT AS WELL TELL YOU, CLARK-- WE'RE GOING TO HAVE LANA ANCHOR THE NEWS SOLO TONIGHT...
...AND BEGIN A SEARCH FOR SOMEONE NEW TO FILL YOUR SPOT!
WHAT?!
EDGE AND I HAD A MEETING THIS MORNING! YOU CAN STILL DO OFF-CAMERA WORK, BUT--
BUT, JOSH! OUR RATINGS HAVE --
HOLD IT, KENT!
6

MR. EDGE!
IF YOU'RE THINKING OF TELLING US HOW TO DO OUR JOBS--DON'T!
WHATEVER PRESENCE YOU MAY HAVE ONCE HAD BEFORE THE CAMERA--
--IS GONE NOW!
I'M A MAN OF FEW WORDS--AND YOU'VE JUST HAD THEM!
WHEW!
WHY IS EVERYONE GIVING ME THE COLD SHOULDER?
EVEN WITH MY INVULNERABLE BODY, I CAN FEEL THE "CHILL"!
AH! THERE'S SOMEONE I CAN COUNT ON FOR A KIND WORD!
LANA!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, CLARK?
WHEW! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE--!
IT'S PAINFULLY OBVIOUS THAT NO ONE THERE WILL MISS ME! CLARK IS GETTING THE SAME TREATMENT THAT SUPERMAN GOT EARLIER!
THIS IS MORE THAN JUST PECULIAR--IT'S DOWNRIGHT UNNATURAL!
SPEAKING OF UNNATURAL--THERE'S "MR. POPULAR" AGAIN! HE HASN'T MANAGED TO BREAK AWAY FROM HIS "FAN CLUB"!
"TO BARBARA CLEAR FROM YOUR FRIEND, JOE BLOWE"! THERE YOU GO, PRETTY YOUNG LADY!


HELLO, JOE! I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THAT YOU'VE ACQUIRED QUITE A FOLLOWING!
YEAH, I SEEM TO BE RUBBING FOLKS THE RIGHT WAY TODAY!
SO TELL ME... DO YOU ALWAYS ATTRACT A GROUP OF ADMIRERS LIKE THAT? I DIDN'T NOTICE THEM AT THE FAIR LAST NIGHT-- BEFORE I SHOOK YOUR HAND!
ARE YOU GETTING AT SOMETHING, SUPERMAN?
SIR! JUST A MOMENT, PLEASE!
LANA?
YES, MISS--?
... LANA LANG WITH WGBS! I SPOTTED YOU IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING A MOMENT AGO!
WOULD YOU CARE TO APPEAR ON MY NEWS-CAST TONIGHT?
ON TV? DOING WHAT?
UH--WELL-- LET ME SEE... HOW ABOUT A GUEST COMMENTARY? I'M SURE METROPOLIS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY!
OH, FOR...
COME TO THINK OF IT, WE HAVE A CO-ANCHOR SPOT OPEN...
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE!
THEN, DROPPING OFF AT THE METROPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY...
NOW I KNOW SOMETHING FUNNY'S GOING ON! LANA WASN'T EVEN BEHAVING RATIONALLY!
AND JUST AS I THOUGHT...
WHO'S WHO

CONTINUED ON 35P PAGE FOLLOWING.

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DAILY PLANET

Late City Edition

★ Monday, December 1, 1985 ★

New Series Special

SECRET ORIGINS REVEALED!

First issue exposes Golden Age Superman!*

Next month Len Wein and Gil Kane bring you all the facts about The Blue Beetle—soon to star in his own series!

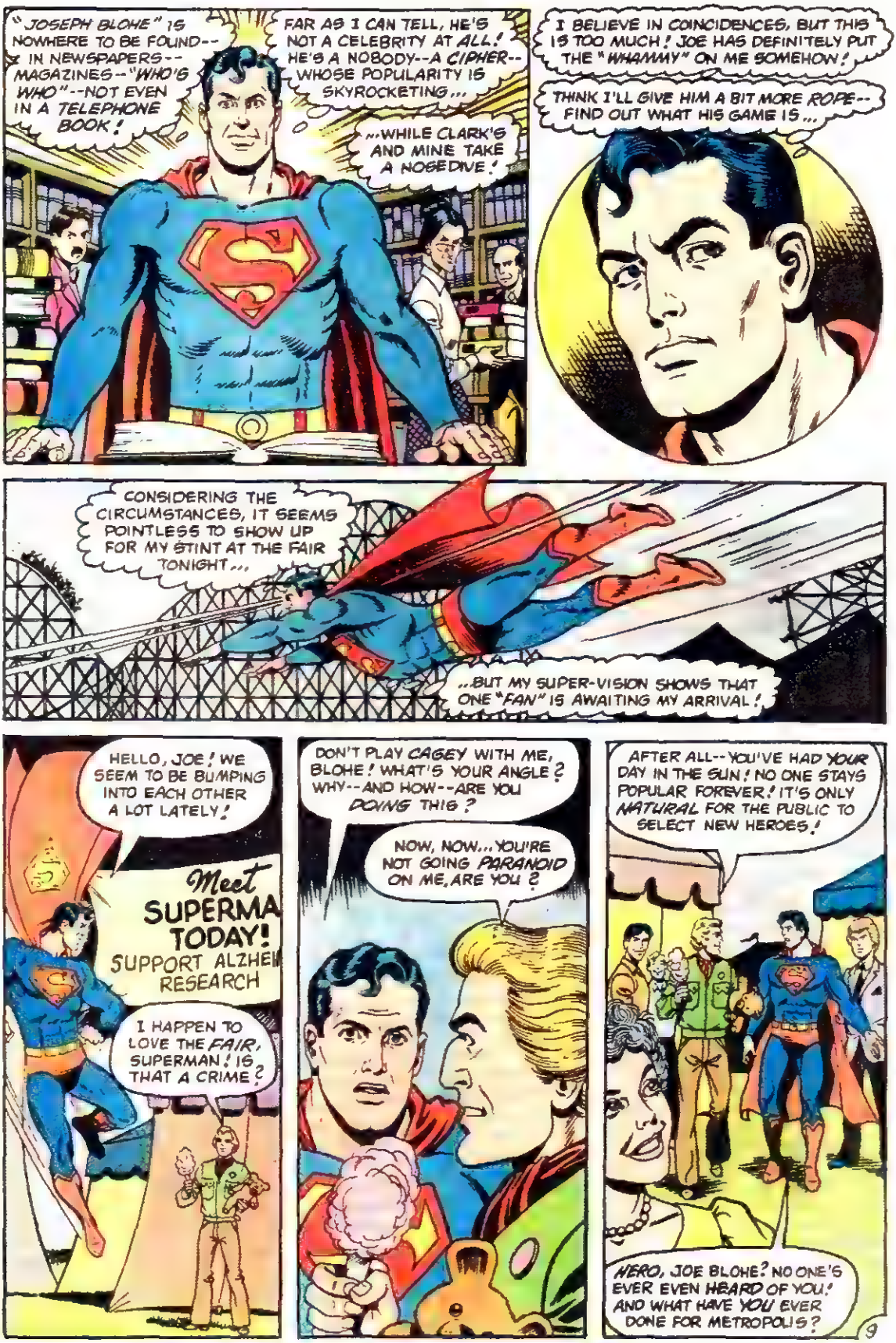
*Indicates Trademark and DC Comics Inc. 1985

METROPOLIS, U.S.A. — *Daily Planet* reporter Clark Kent has discovered shocking revelations concerning the origins of some of DC's most treasured characters and heroes. Kent disclosed the results of his year-long investigation to DC's Publisher and President, Jenette Kahn, in a meeting late yesterday. This morning a press conference was called by Executive Vice-President, Paul Levitz. Levitz admitted to a crowd of reporters that Kent's sleuthing was both significant and revealing. He then announced the publication of a new series by saying: "*Secret Origins* is exactly that—a revelation of the beginnings of DC greats! For the premiere of this unprecedented, ongoing series, writer/editor Roy Thomas (*Infinity, Inc.*, *All-Star Squadron*) will team up with renowned artists Wayne Boring and Jerry Ordway. The first issue will feature, appropriately enough, the original Superman. The format of *Secret Origins* will be of special interest, as the odd-numbered issues will retell the origins of DC's Golden Age heroes in chronological order (for example, #3—Captain Marvel, #5—Crimson Avenger), and the even-numbered issues will retell the secrets behind the modern heroes. Also, comic fans will be excited to hear that each issue will be created by a different artistic team."

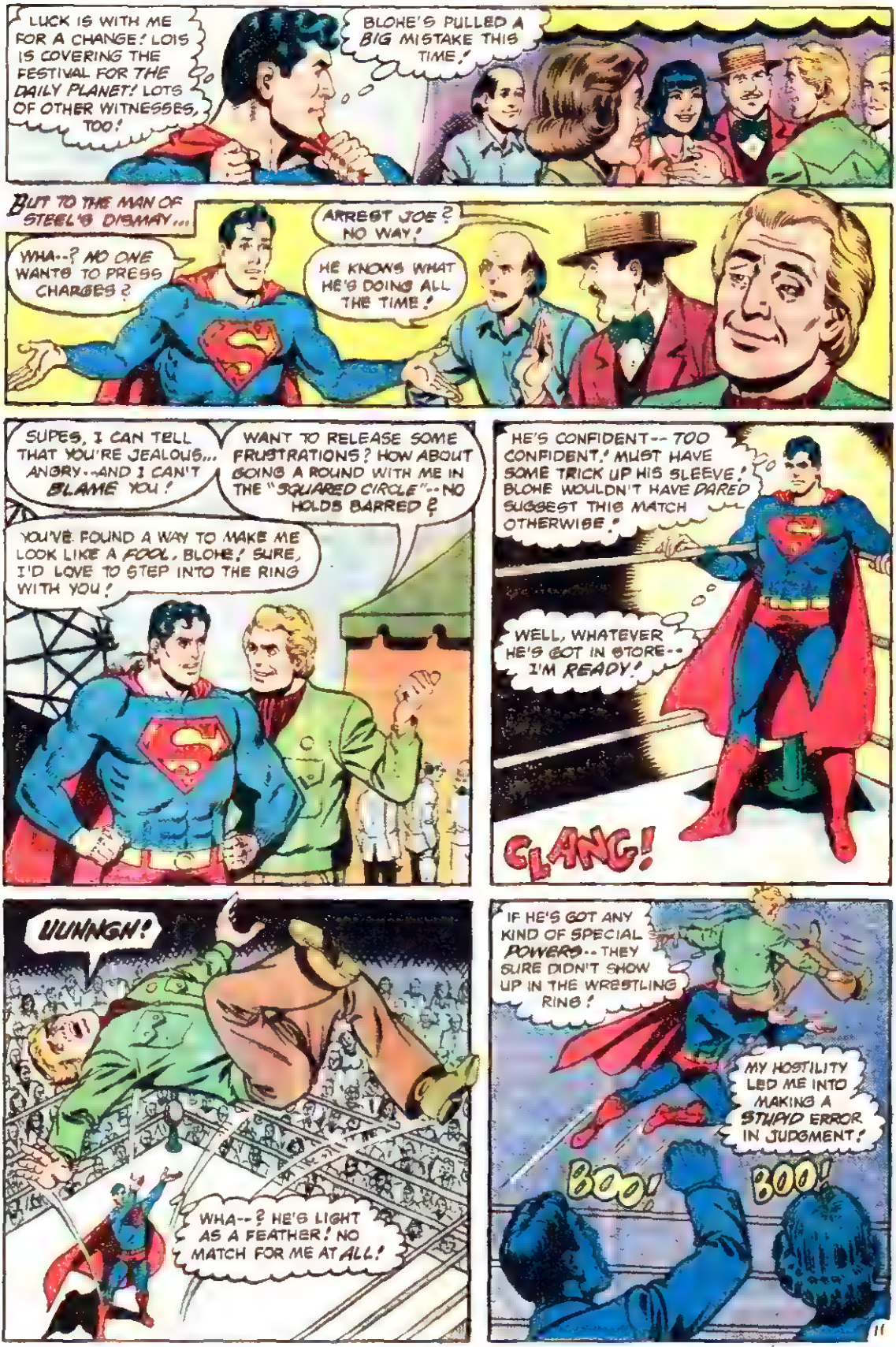
Blue Beetle (#2)*

Captain Marvel (#3)*

Firestorm (#4)*


"JOSEPH BLOHE" IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND--IN NEWSPAPERS--MAGAZINES--"WHO'S WHO"--NOT EVEN IN A TELEPHONE BOOK!
FAR AS I CAN TELL, HE'S NOT A CELEBRITY AT ALL! HE'S A NOBODY--A CIPHER--WHOSE POPULARITY IS SKYROCKETING...
...WHILE CLARK'S AND MINE TAKE A NOSEDIVE!
I BELIEVE IN COINCIDENCES, BUT THIS IS TOO MUCH! JOE HAS DEFINITELY PUT THE "WHAMMY" ON ME SOMEHOW!
THINK I'LL GIVE HIM A BIT MORE ROPE--FIND OUT WHAT HIS GAME IS...
CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT SEEMS POINTLESS TO SHOW UP FOR MY STINT AT THE FAIR TONIGHT...
...BUT MY SUPER-VISION SHOWS THAT ONE "FAN" IS AWAITING MY ARRIVAL!
HELLO, JOE! WE SEEM TO BE BUMPING INTO EACH OTHER A LOT LATELY!
Meet SUPERMA TODAY! SUPPORT ALZHEI RESEARCH
I HAPPEN TO LOVE THE FAIR, SUPERMAN! IS THAT A CRIME?
DON'T PLAY CAGEY WITH ME, BLOHE! WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE? WHY--AND HOW--ARE YOU DOING THIS?
NOW, NOW... YOU'RE NOT GOING PARANOID ON ME, ARE YOU?
AFTER ALL--YOU'VE HAD YOUR DAY IN THE SUN! NO ONE STAYS POPULAR FOREVER! IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR THE PUBLIC TO SELECT NEW HEROES!
HERO, JOE BLOHE? NO ONE'S EVER EVEN HEARD OF YOU! AND WHAT HAVE YOU EVER DONE FOR METROPOLIS?

RUNAWAY COMET
EH·· NOTHING, ACTUALLY! BUT ISN'T THAT JUST LIKE PEOPLE? GO FIGURE.!
ALL I KNOW IS THAT MY NEWFOUND POPULARITY IS UNSHAKABLE.! ROCK SOLID!
SCREEECH!!!
WATCH THIS··!
GREAT KRYPTON!
HELP!
THAT IRRESPONSIBLE MANIAC HALTED THE COASTER SO SUDDENLY THAT A CAR JUMPED THE TRACKS.!
TYING THE ENDS OF MY STRETCHABLE CAPE TO THE FRAMEWORK...
...WILL LET THE UNFORTUNATE PASSENGERS SLIDE TO SAFETY!
DON'T YOU DARE DROP US, YOU SHOW-OFF.!


LUCK IS WITH ME FOR A CHANGE! LOIS IS COVERING THE FESTIVAL FOR THE DAILY PLANET! LOTS OF OTHER WITNESSES, TOO!
BLOHE'S PULLED A BIG MISTAKE THIS TIME!
BUT TO THE MAN OF STEEL'S DISMAY...
WHA--? NO ONE WANTS TO PRESS CHARGES?
ARREST JOE? NO WAY!
HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING ALL THE TIME!
SUPES, I CAN TELL THAT YOU'RE JEALOUS... ANGRY--AND I CAN'T BLAME YOU!
WANT TO RELEASE SOME FRUSTRATIONS? HOW ABOUT GOING A ROUND WITH ME IN THE "SQUARED CIRCLE"--NO HOLDS BARRED?
YOU'VE FOUND A WAY TO MAKE ME LOOK LIKE A FOOL, BLOHE! SURE, I'D LOVE TO STEP INTO THE RING WITH YOU!
HE'S CONFIDENT--TOO CONFIDENT! MUST HAVE SOME TRICK UP HIS SLEEVE! BLOHE WOULDN'T HAVE DARED SUGGEST THIS MATCH OTHERWISE!
WELL, WHATEVER HE'S GOT IN STORE--I'M READY!
CLANG!
UUNNGH!
WHA--? HE'S LIGHT AS A FEATHER! NO MATCH FOR ME AT ALL!
IF HE'S GOT ANY KIND OF SPECIAL POWERS--THEY SURE DIDN'T SHOW UP IN THE WRESTLING RING!
MY HOSTILITY LED ME INTO MAKING A STUPID ERROR IN JUDGMENT!
BOO!
BOO!

WHY, BLOHE--WHY?
LIKE I SAID--YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU NEEDED TO WORK OFF SOME STEAM! BUT I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D TRY TO KILL ME!
BOOO, SUPERMAN!
YUH'RE A BUM!
I MAY NOT BE A SUPER-MAN--
YAY, JOE! WHAT A GUY!
--BUT WITH FANS LIKE THESE, HOW CAN I BE A LOSER?
BACK TO KRYPTON, YA BULLY!
LOIS--I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU!
REALLY--?
I KNOW THAT WHATEVER METHOD BLOHE'S USING TO INFLUENCE THE CROWD IS PROBABLY AFFECTING YOU AS WELL!
BUT--THINK! THIS IS OBVIOUSLY SOME SORT OF PLOT TO HURT ME!
HA--!
OHHH--YOU'RE SO GREAT THAT IT TAKES A LUTHOR OR A PARASITE TO MAKE YOU FALL OUT OF FAVOR WITH YOUR ADORING PUBLIC, IS THAT IT?
SUCH CONCEIT! I SUPPOSE YOU DESERVE SAINTHOOD BECAUSE YOU HAVE SUPER-POWERS!
BUT--
I JUST WATCHED YOU COME THIS CLOSE TO KILLING A MAN WHO ONLY WANTED TO BOLSTER YOUR POOR, DEFLATED EGO!
FACE IT, SUPERMAN! YOU'VE RIDDEN ON YOUR REPUTATION A LOT LONGER THAN YOU DESERVE TO COME DOWN OUT OF THE CLOUDS!
BUT--

BUT--IT IS A PLOT--
...WHICH DOESN'T EXACTLY MAKE THE HURT ANY LESS REAL!
BASH!
IT IS EARLY EVENING.
ON THE VOLTAIRE, ALL IS QUIET...
VOLTAIRE
...BUT ALL IS NOT WELL!
WHA-WHAT IN THE WORLD?
VOLTAIRE
ELSEWHERE...
HMMPH! THE WRITE-UP DOESN'T EVEN MENTION THE FACT THAT I WAS THERE UNTIL THE LAST PAGE--
DAILY PLANET
JOE BLOHE EXPOSES ROLLER COASTER HAZARD
CITY OWES THANKS TO CONCERNED CITIZEN
JOE BLOHE
--AND EVEN THEN, JUST TO MAKE SNIDE REMARKS-- AND MISSPELL MY NAME! SUPER-NAM, INDEED!
MY "FRIEND" JOE MAKES HIS TV DEBUT TONIGHT...
BUT FIRST, THIS JUST IN:
GRRRR!

THE CREW OF THE SALVAGE VESSEL VOLTAIRE ARE THE FIRST VICTIMS OF A STRANGE ROBOTIC CREATURE...
VOLTAIRE
...WHICH IS NOW THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN HIDING IN THE EGYPTIAN SARCOPHAGUS RECOVERED FROM THE ANNA MARIE! THE ROBOT IS NOW AT LARGE...
WHOOSH!
GRR--YIPE!
RADI
IT IS A ROBOT! ALIEN TECHNOLOGY--BUILT OF AN UNFAMILIAR MATERIAL.
KREEEOOOOWW!
THOSE RAYS FROM ITS EYES ARE TRAPPING PEOPLE AND THINGS LIKE FLIES IN AMBER!
LOOKS LIKE THEY'LL REMAIN UNHARMED--IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION--UNTIL I CAN FIND A WAY TO FREE THEM!
WELL, ONE THING'S CERTAIN--METROPOLIS MAY HAVE LOST ITS SENSES, BUT WHEN THERE'S SUPERMAN-SIZED WORK TO BE DONE...
14

...THEY'LL TAKE MY HELP OVER JOE BLOHE'S ANY DAY!
STRANGE--THE ROBOT'S CREATED A PYRAMID-SHAPED FRAMEWORK OVER THE CITY...
...AND USING ITS "AMBER-VISION" TO FILL "IN-BETWEEN THE LINES"!
IT'S GOING TO ENTOMB THE ENTIRE CITY!
STOP!
WELL, I DREW ITS ATTENTION, AT LEAST--
LUCKY ME!
THIS STUFF IS TOUGH ALL RIGHT--
K-KRAK!
--AND THE ROBOT'S EVEN TOUGHER!
SMASH!

WOOF! QUITE A KICK!
I MAY NEVER KNOW THE WHOLE STORY BEHIND THIS THING, BUT I'D GUESS THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS HAD SOME EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL "VISITORS"...
...WHO LEFT THIS TOY BEHIND!
NO DOUBT THE ROBOT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SINKING OF THE ANNA MARIE...
...THE ENTOMBING OF THE VOLTAIRE...
...AND NOW--FOR SOME REASON--IT WANTS TO BURY METROPOLIS!
KRASH!
BUT NOT AS LONG AS I HAVE AN ERG OF SUPER-POWER!
BY THE TIME I'M THROUGH HERE, METROPOLIS WILL HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE I'M INDISPENSABLE TO--
COME ON, GET UP! FLATTEN THAT BIG RED S--!
16
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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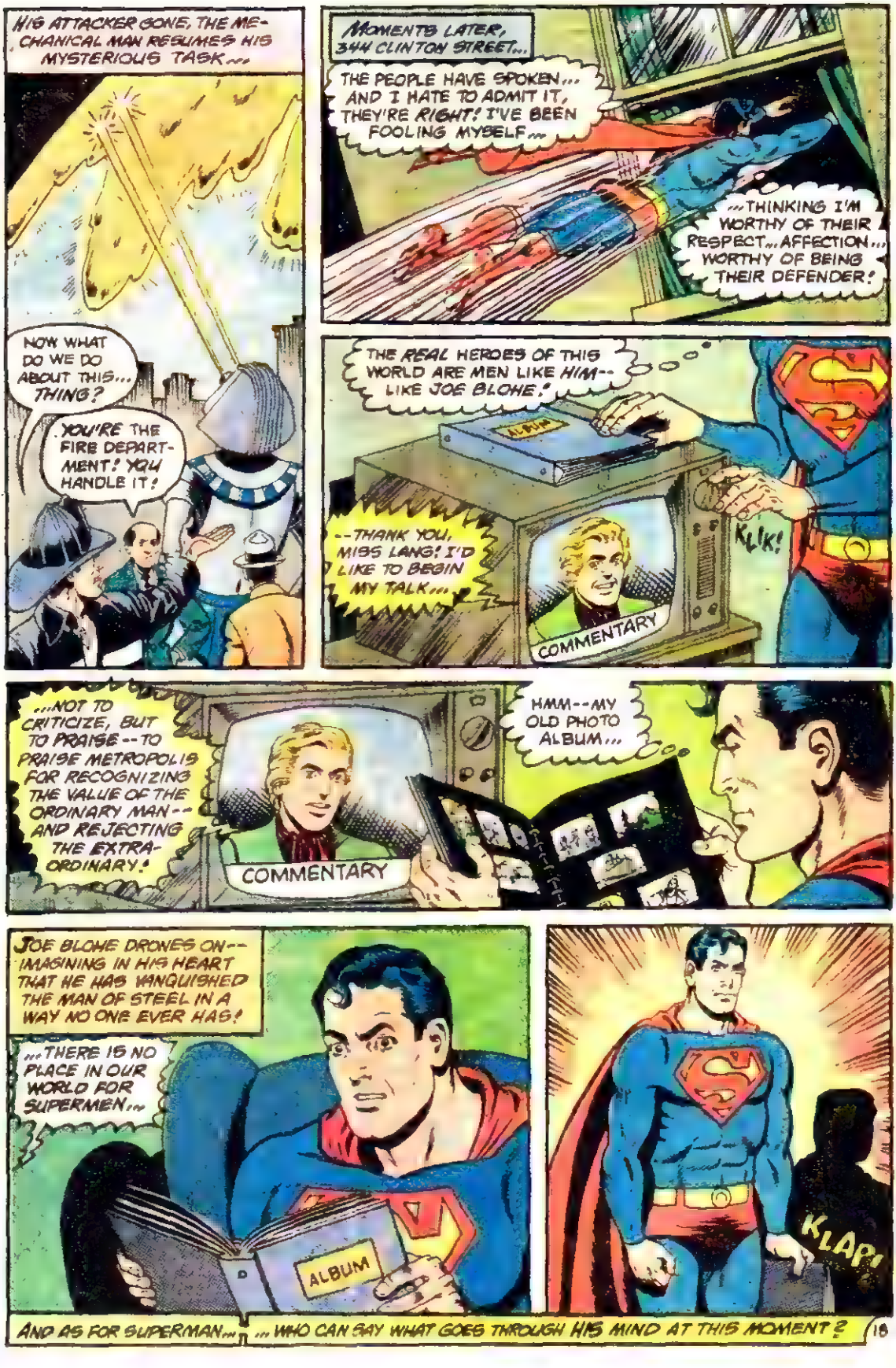
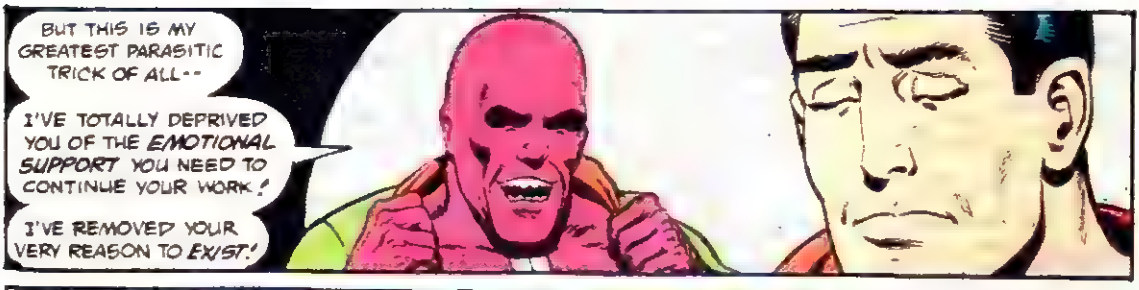
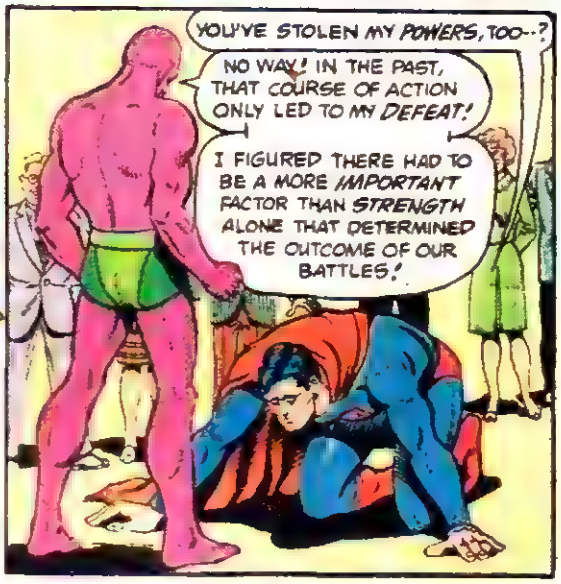
EH? CHEERING THE ROBOT ON? SHOW THAT KRYPTONIAN HOW TO FIGHT!
HA, HA! YOU SHOWED HIM GOOD!
GIVE IT TO HIM AGAIN, METAL MAN!
K-WOP!
I-I'M TRYING TO PROTECT THEM--
--AND THEY'RE SHOUTING ME DOWN!? WOOF!
DO THEY-- HATE ME SO MUCH--
--THAT THEY'RE BLIND TO THE DANGER!
YAAH, SUPERMAN! YOU'VE HAD IT!
WHAM!
ALL RIGHT!
YOU ASKED FOR IT!
SAVE YOUR-SELVES!!


HIS ATTACKER GONE, THE MECHANICAL MAN RESUMES HIS MYSTERIOUS TASK...
NOW WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THIS... THING?
YOU'RE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT! YOU HANDLE IT!
MOMENTS LATER, 344 CLINTON STREET...
THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN... AND I HATE TO ADMIT IT, THEY'RE RIGHT! I'VE BEEN FOOLING MYSELF...
...THINKING I'M WORTHY OF THEIR RESPECT...AFFECTION... WORTHY OF BEING THEIR DEFENDER!
THE REAL HEROES OF THIS WORLD ARE MEN LIKE HIM-- LIKE JOE BLOHE!
ALBUM
--THANK YOU, MISS LANG! I'D LIKE TO BEGIN MY TALK...
COMMENTARY
KLIK!
...NOT TO CRITICIZE, BUT TO PRAISE--TO PRAISE METROPOLIS FOR RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF THE ORDINARY MAN-- AND REJECTING THE EXTRAORDINARY!
COMMENTARY
HMM--MY OLD PHOTO ALBUM...
JOE BLOHE DRONES ON-- IMAGINING IN HIS HEART THAT HE HAS VANQUISHED THE MAN OF STEEL IN A WAY NO ONE EVER HAS!
...THERE IS NO PLACE IN OUR WORLD FOR SUPERMEN...
ALBUM
KLAP!
AND AS FOR SUPERMAN...
...WHO CAN SAY WHAT GOES THROUGH HIS MIND AT THIS MOMENT?

AND AS THE ACTION ACE ROCKETS ACROSS METROPOLIS...
I'LL DEAL WITH THAT TIN MAN IN A MOMENT!
WGBS!
FANS HAVE OVERRUN THE STUDIO--HANGING ON HIS EVERY WORD--AS THOUGH THERE WEREN'T A MAJOR CRISIS OUTSIDE!
HI THERE, JOE...
SUPERMAN--? HEY, I WAS JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU!
YOU'VE KEPT ME SO OFF-BALANCE--I DIDN'T NOTICE THE ILLUSION CASTING DEVICE ON YOUR JACKET BEFORE!
LET'S HEAT IT UP AND SEE YOUR REAL FACE--
SSSSS
GASP! THE PARASITE!
A NOBLE EFFORT, OLD ENEMY--BUT YOU'RE WAY TOO LATE!
SEE FOR YOURSELF--MY LEGION OF FOLLOWERS ARE SO ENAMORED OF ME BY NOW...
...THE FACT THAT I'M A WANTED SUPER-VILLAIN DOESN'T FAZE THEM IN THE SLIGHTEST!
BAH! WHO NEEDS SUPERMAN?
THE PARASITE IS NUMBER ONE WITH US!
IN OUR PAST ENCOUNTERS, YOU'VE STOLEN MY POWERS WITH YOUR ENERGY-SIPHONING ABILITY--
--BUT HOW DID YOU STEAL MY... POPULARITY?
ONE "TRICK" IS AS SIMPLE AS THE OTHER--IT'S ALL A MATTER OF MOVING ENERGY AROUND!


BUT THIS IS MY GREATEST PARASITIC TRICK OF ALL--
I'VE TOTALLY DEPRIVED YOU OF THE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT YOU NEED TO CONTINUE YOUR WORK!
I'VE REMOVED YOUR VERY REASON TO EXIST!

REMEMBER OUR WRESTLING MATCH? THE OUTCOME WILL BE QUITE DIFFERENT THIS TIME!
UUNN!
WHOOMP!
GO, "JOE," GO!
WITHOUT YOUR SENSE OF PURPOSE-- YOU'RE NOTHING!


YOU'VE STOLEN MY POWERS, TOO--?
NO WAY! IN THE PAST, THAT COURSE OF ACTION ONLY LED TO MY DEFEAT!
I FIGURED THERE HAD TO BE A MORE IMPORTANT FACTOR THAN STRENGTH ALONE THAT DETERMINED THE OUTCOME OF OUR BATTLES!

AND THAT FACTOR WAS: YOU HAD THE WHOLE WORLD BACKING YOU UP!
BUT NOW THEY'RE BACKING ME! NOW I FEEL LIKE I COULD TAKE ON THE WORLD!
WHAK!

THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT YOU ANYMORE, SUPERMAN! YOU DON'T EVEN CARE ABOUT YOURSELF! IN THE END, I'VE EVEN STOLEN THAT FROM YOU!
20

YOU DRAINED AWAY MY--SELF-ESTEEM?
PRECISELY!
SO I DON'T WANT TO WIN?
YOU DON'T EVEN WANT TO TRY!
AND THAT'S HOW YOU CAN DEFEAT ME?
EXACTLY!
WELL, YOU'RE WRONG, PARASITE!
POWP!
YOU'RE DEAD WRONG WHEN YOU BOAST THAT NO ONE CARES ABOUT ME! THERE IS SUCH A PERSON!
THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON OF ALL!
WH-WHO?
YOU, PARASITE! YOU!
WHO ELSE WOULD SPEND THIS KIND OF EFFORT ON A "NOBODY" LIKE ME?
YOU GETTING THIS?
FACE IT! I'M THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THE WORLD TO YOU! OTHERWISE, WHY WOULD YOU KEEP COMING BACK TIME AFTER TIME TO CONTINUE OUR FEUD? YOUR HATE IS ALL-CONSUMING!
21
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

TWO FUN-LOVING GUYS

...IN THEIR MOST DEADLY CASE!

IT ALL STARTS *HERE* IN *FIRESTORM** #46...

... PICKS UP IN *BLUE DEVIL** #23...

...AND CONCLUDES IN *FIRESTORM* #47!

CONCOCTED BY GERRY CONWAY & JOE BROZOWSKI, MUSHKIN, COHN, & KUPPERBERG

GET IN ON THE ACTION... NOW!

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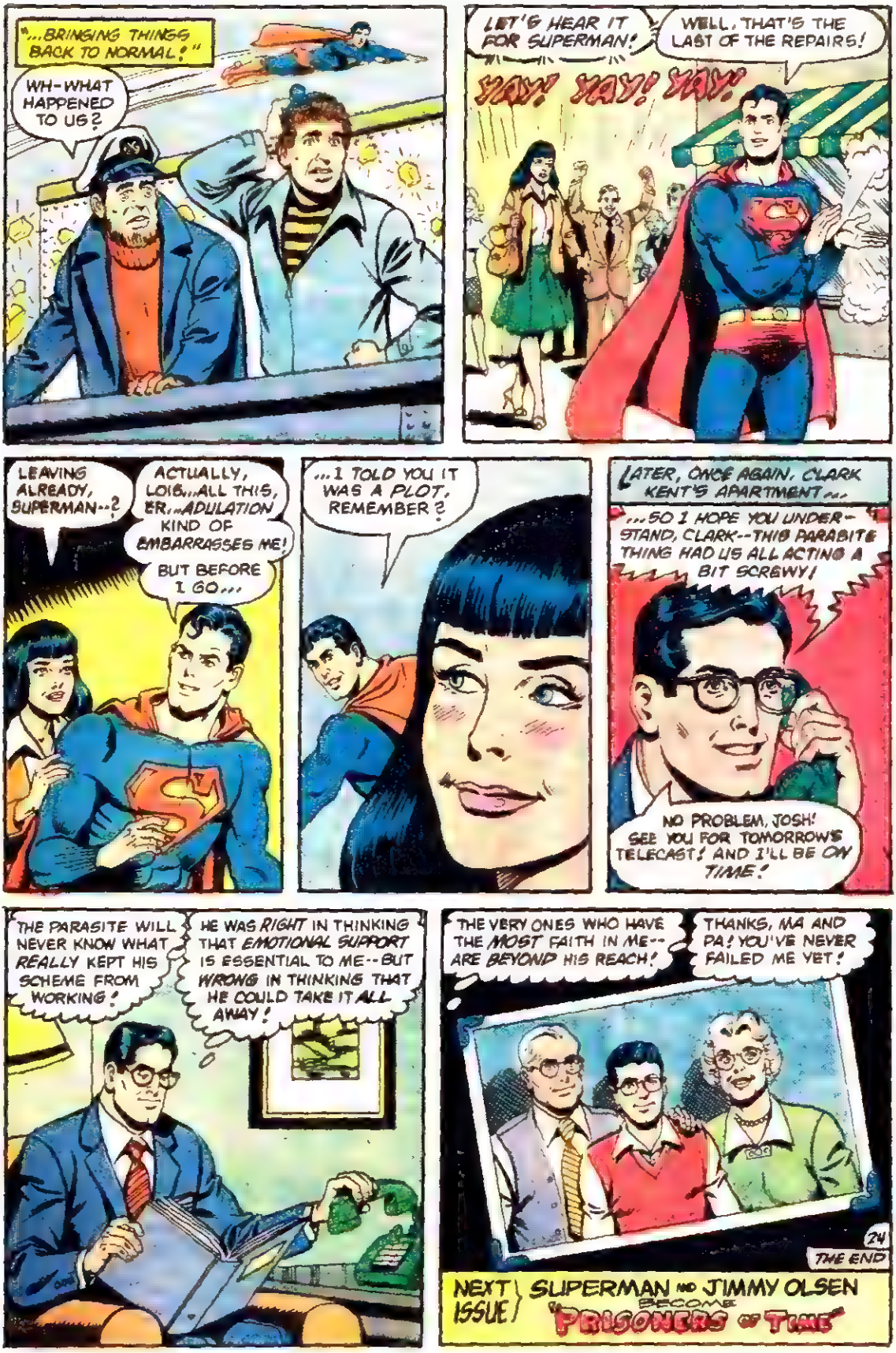
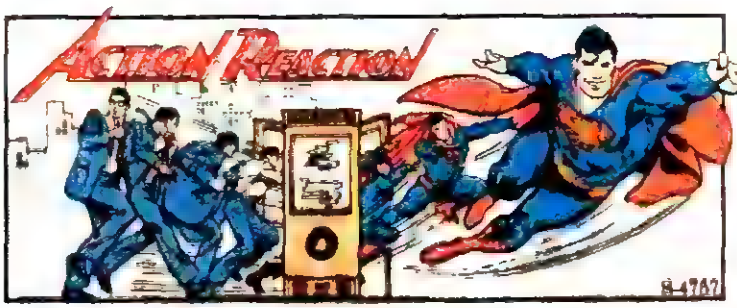
BUT IT'S CONSUMING YOU, PARASITE! NOT ME!
THAT'S WHY YOU'LL ALWAYS MAKE MISTAKES... AND THAT'S WHY YOU'LL ALWAYS LOSE IN THE END!
THE PARASITE DETECTS THE RING OF TRUTH IN SUPERMAN'S WORDS, THE SPELL IS BROKEN...
...AND THE SCALES FALL FROM THE EYES OF A GRATEFUL CITY.
YAY FOR SUPERMAN!
HEAR THAT, "JOE"? THEY'RE CHEERING FOR ME!
BUT THE METROPOLIS MARVEL IS NOT ONE TO REST ON HIS LAURELS...
I'VE HYPNOTIZED THE PARASITE TO KEEP HIM FROM DUPLICATING THAT TRICK AGAIN! HE'LL BE NO MORE TROUBLE FOR A WHILE!
HOORAY! SUPERMAN IS BACK ON THE JOB AGAIN!
NOW FOR SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS!
HAD I BEEN THINKING CLEARLY BEFORE...
...I'D HAVE NOTICED THAT THE ROBOT'S ALIEN HEARING MECHANISM IS MUCH MORE SENSITIVE THAN A HUMAN'S EARS!
ACCEPTABLE NOISE LEVELS ON EARTH ARE TOO MUCH FOR IT--CAUSES ITS ROBOT BRAIN TO GO CRAZY!
THE ENGINE NOISES ON BOARD THE VOLTAIRE AND THE ANNA MARIE MUST'VE SLOWLY DRIVEN THE CREATURE BERSERK!

THAT'S WHY IT'S BEEN SILENCING OBJECTS WHICH CREATE LOUD NOISES!
THAT'S WHY IT SECRETED ITSELF IN THAT EGYPTIAN TOMB--
--AND THAT'S WHY IT'S BURYING ITSELF AND THE CITY IN A PYRAMID OF ITS OWN CREATION!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE ROBOT'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE WAS, BUT ALL IT WANTS NOW--
--IS PEACE AND QUIET!
A FITTING PLACE FOR THIS POOR CREATURE IS A NOISELESS ENVIRONMENT WHERE IT CAN SLEEP FOREVER-- UNDISTURBED!
--OUTER SPACE!
NOW AN ULTRASONIC WHISTLE AT JUST THE RIGHT PITCH SHOULD CAUSE THE ROBOT'S "AMBER SOUNDPROOFING" TO SHAKE INTO LOOSE ATOMS...
WHEEEE!


"...BRINGING THINGS BACK TO NORMAL!"
WH-WHAT HAPPENED TO US?
LET'S HEAR IT FOR SUPERMAN!
WELL, THAT'S THE LAST OF THE REPAIRS!
YAY! YAY! YAY!
LEAVING ALREADY, SUPERMAN--?
ACTUALLY, LOIS...ALL THIS, ER...ADULATION KIND OF EMBARRASSES ME!
BUT BEFORE I GO...
...I TOLD YOU IT WAS A PLOT, REMEMBER?
LATER, ONCE AGAIN, CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT...
...SO I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND, CLARK--THIS PARABITE THING HAD US ALL ACTING A BIT SCREWY!
NO PROBLEM, JOSH! SEE YOU FOR TOMORROW'S TELECAST! AND I'LL BE ON TIME!
THE PARASITE WILL NEVER KNOW WHAT REALLY KEPT HIS SCHEME FROM WORKING!
HE WAS RIGHT IN THINKING THAT EMOTIONAL SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL TO ME--BUT WRONG IN THINKING THAT HE COULD TAKE IT ALL AWAY!
THE VERY ONES WHO HAVE THE MOST FAITH IN ME--ARE BEYOND HIS REACH!
THANKS, MA AND PA! YOU'VE NEVER FAILED ME YET!
24
THE END
NEXT ISSUE
SUPERMAN AND JIMMY OLSEN BECOME "PRISONERS OF TIME"



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Dear Julie, Bob, and Laurie,

I don't believe it! Mr. Mxyzptlk defeated with simple logic instead of trickery! I loved it!

When you started doing the less serious stories, I eagerly awaited one with Mxyzptlk. Now, after two rather mediocre attempts, we've finally gotten a tale with the imp/practical joker that was really funny. Nice going. Don't let *ACTION* #574 be the last time.

I have to admit that I was fooled by "*May the Best World Win.*" When *Superman* started to suspect something, I thought it was because of something Zonon said, that he was on his way to Krypton when the planet exploded.

Kurt Schaffenberger and Dave Hunt did their usual top-notch job on the art, and Ed Barreto turned in still another terrific cover.

A question about the coloring on the cover, though. Who decided it should be colored gray and brown instead of normal coloring? And while we're at it, why is it that in crowd scenes, as in page 5 of the first story, people in the background are all colored in light blue or gray? Is it too time-consuming to color all those people? Or because it's hard to get the colors correct in such small areas?

PAT MATTAUCH
Panorama City, CA

You've got the right person to answer your questions, Pat, since yours truly, as the Production Manager, has all the coloring coming through our department. First off, the choice of color scheme on the cover is generally made by the colorist. In the case of ACTION, it's Tatjana Wood. But with one such as #574, where a special effect was desired, the idea is discussed with editor Julie, cover editor Ed Hannigan, cover production coordinator Bob LeRose, and yours truly. Once we agree on how it should be prepared, Tatjana does the actual coloring. Remember that the most important function of a cover is to attract readers (and buyers). A change-of-pace look like #574 certainly stands out.

As for the inside crowd scene coloring, the main reason for "knocking out" the majority of the people is to make the main characters and action easier to see. One of the colorist's most important jobs is to tell the story and make it easy to follow. By making the insignificant people (and buildings and anything else in the background) "fade away," what's important becomes more obvious.

And with our "coloring clinic" done, let's move on to the next letter.—BR

•••••

Dear Editor (and Bob and Laurie),

As I neared the end of "May the Best World Win," I figured that it would be distinguished from a run-of-the-mill offering by two factors: 1) The dramatic cover by Eduardo Barreto, and 2) the rather neatly contrived athletic contests between *Superman* and Zonon. However, the final page of this story made it truly memorable, if still not exactly a classic.

No, it was not the revelation that Zonon's planet, Ostok, had perished. Nor was it the sad death of Zonon himself. Rather, it was *Superman*'s reaction that though Zonon had been awarded the victory flag, *Superman* was the actual winner. With a tear in his eye he said, "When you're *Superman*, what's one more victory?" This was truly indicative of *Superman*'s noble spirit. Firstly, it shows that he is not a super-hero out to grab some glory or build up his self-importance. He knows he has won many victories in his life. And it shows his compassion. He truly wished that Zonon could have won the true victory, because it was so important to the dying man. *Superman* took joy in the competition and did his best, but to him a triumph in such a "friendly" battle meant little. Finally, it shows that *Superman* is sensitive to the essence of things. He didn't say, "So what? Zonon thought he won." To Supes, the actual outcome mattered, not just the surface appearances.

Zonon was a worthy opponent for *Superman*, but the Man of Steel showed it is more than raw power that makes him great.

T.M. MAPLE
Box 1272, Station B
Weston, ONT M9L 2R9

•••••

Dear Julie, Bob, and Laurie,

"Tomorrow Is Cancelled" was one of the better Mxyzptlk yarns I've seen lately, though I still find it hard to build up enthusiasm for the imp's forays into the fantastic and funny. So now the other-dimensional loony has a son, eh? Lord help the tyke. He'll probably grow up to be "backward" like his dad. (And I probably won't get any more letters printed in *BATMAN* or *DETECTIVE* if I don't mention that it was nice to see Bob Greenberger's credit on the tale. An all-too rare sight.) As usual, Howard Bender and Dave Hunt did some very nice art.

What more is there to say? Only ... "Look, up in the 'SPLAT!'"

DALE COE
56 Whitecross Road
Warrington, Cheshire WA5 1LR
England

What more could you say, Dale? Actually, there was a lot more to your letter that we had to edit out to make room for the annual visit of the Statement of Ownership to the bottom of this page. (And, by the way, since you didn't mention Barbara Randall's contribution to the Mxyzptlk tale, your chances of having letters printed in TALES OF THE TEEN TITANS, VIGILANTE, and WARLORD may have diminished drastically!)

Till next issue, always remember to "Look, up in the sky..."—Bob Rozakis

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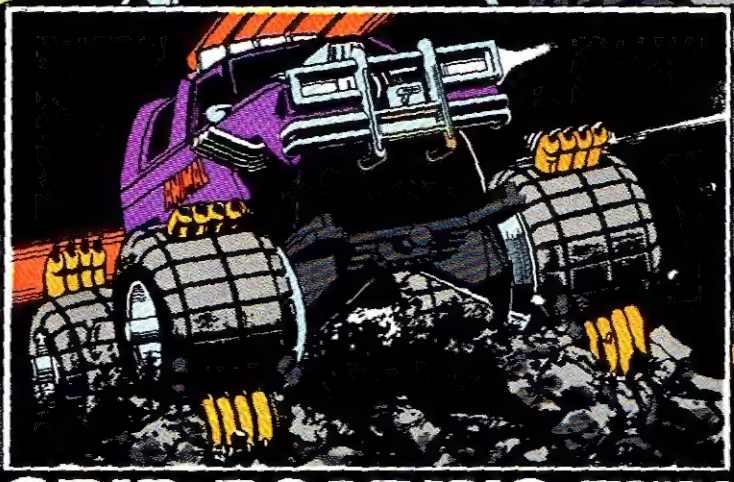

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BAT MAN
"The Case of the Sneaky Scanner"
The Sneaky Scanner comes to Gotham City.
Ah, Batman, I see you found one page where I forgot to flip.
No! It makes it difficult to read the comic!!
Thank God I didn't wear a dress today!!
And you didn't do the page joins either, you fiend!!
But they are so difficult to get matched up and I just don't have the time! And proofreading is just a waste of my efforts!
You mean that they will help? (By the way, nice tights. You work out often?)
Here...I'll show you how to do a join... I'll join your legs!
Am I Billy Batson?
You can ask other scanners in the DCP to help you out!
POW
And here's how to keep a page vertical!
Some scanners will never learn!
I think that this fruit pie has gone rancid!! Barfff!!!
DCP...Can you post bail?
DCP...Better than rancid fruit pies!!!
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DC Comics

"The Most Popular Man in Metropolis"

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